Pakistan has not taken any concrete steps to dismantle the infrastructure supporting terrorism on its territory. Nor has infiltration of terrorists come to a halt.

(c) and (d) According to information provided by the State Government of J and K, the number of incidents of terrorist violence in the State during the calendar year 2002, was 4038 compared to 4522 in the calendar year 2001.

**Special cell to deal naxalite menace**

146. SHRI RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a special cell to deal with naxalite menace in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how intelligence sharing by the affected States and the Centre would be coordinated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

However, keeping in view the overall dimensions of Left Wing Extremism, a Coordination Centre headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the seriously affected States, as its members, regularly reviews and coordinates steps taken by the concerned State Government to check left wing extremist activities.

**Fight against terrorism**

147. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently visited France and Qatar and held discussions with counterparts there;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether France and Qatar have extended help to India to fight war against terrorism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir. The Deputy Prime Minister recently visited Qatar and France (from 20th January, 2003 to 25th January, 2003) to hold discussions with the leaders of these countries.

(b) Details of the discussions held with respective countries, as well as the agreement signed during the visit are given in the Statement (*see* below).

(c) and (d) There is a broad agreement, in principle, to have close cooperation with these countries in the War against Terrorism. There is already a Joint Working Group with France to combat terrorism/security cooperation. An Extradition Treaty has been signed with France during the visit to France. Action to form a Joint Working Group with Qatar has been initiated.

***Statement***

*Details of the discussions held with the respective countries as well as agreement signed*

**Deputy Prime Minister's visit to Qatar & France**
**(20th January to 25th January, 2003)**

Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani accompanied by an official level delegation (OSD to Dy. P.M., PS to Dy. P.M., Special Director, IB, JS(PP) MHA, JS(EWC), MEA and JS(Gulf) MEA visited Qatar and held discussions with the authorities in Qatar on 21st and 22nd January, 2003.

During his visit, Deputy Prime Minister met HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of State of Qatar, HN Sheikh Mohammad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister, HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani, Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar and HE Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Minister of Energy & Industry and discussed various issues concerning Indo-Qatar bilateral relations and highlighted India's security concerns.

From Qatar the delegation went to France on 22nd January, 2003. During their stay in Paris from 22nd to 25th January, 2003 the Deputy

Prime Minister held discussions with the French authorities relating to Indo-French bilateral cooperation; Indo-French Extradition Treaty was signed by Dy. P.M. on 24.012.003. During his stay in Paris the Dy. P.M. also met the French Prime Minister Mr. Jean Pierre Reffarin, Interier Minister Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy Minister for Justice Mr. Dominique Perben, Transport Minister Mr. Gilles de Robien, and Defence Minister Mme. Michele Alliot Marlei.

**Violation of flag code**

148. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at some places on the Republic Day i.e. 26th January, 2003 there were incidents of violation of flag code;

(b) if so, whether any complaints have been received in the Ministry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the complaints received in the Ministry; and

(d) the action contemplated by Government against the errants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Flag code is a compendium of executive instructions and has no legal back up. Therefore, action cannot be taken against anyone for violation of the provisions of the code. However, insult to the National Flag is an offence under The Prevention of Insult to National Honour Act, 1971. Action under this Act is taken by the concerned State Governments. No specific complaint about insult to the National Flag on 26th Juanry, 2003 within the meaning of The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 has been received by the Government.

**Mineral exploration of A.P. Government**

149. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the details of proposals of the Andhra Pradesh Government for mineral exploration cleared by the Union Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): During the current year (1st April, 2002 to